

What “Member to Member” question would you like to see?

The following responses are available on AALLNET only. For the responses published in the July 2009 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, please see the issue in its entirety.

“What steps are you taking to minimize your carbon footprint or address global warming?”

--Stephanie Midkiff (smidkiff@uoregon.edu), reference librarian at the University of Oregon John E. Jaqua Law Library in Eugene.

“I suggest the following question: How do administrators and librarians know what a reasonable workload is? There doesn't seem to be any general customary system for evaluating librarian workload as there is for clerical staff or academic faculty. The library faculty at the University of Cincinnati are evaluating our workload document and there is a lot of disagreement on it. On the one hand, some want it to be as short and general as possible because they fear the administration will impose a time clock system on us that is appropriate for clerical staff. On the other hand, some would like us to devise our own point system that resembles, but is not the same as, the faculty use of credit hours for evaluating their teaching load. Some departments at the university have extended this system to other types of work like research, service, advising, committee work, etc.”

--James Hart, (hartjw@ucmail.uc.edu), associate senior librarian at the University of Cincinnati.

“I want to ask people who their favorite fictional/pop culture librarians are. I also want to hear what people's wackiest reference questions/interviews have been about.”

--Meg Kribble (mrkibble@law.harvard.edu), reference librarian and outreach and community relations specialist at Harvard Law School

“Some publishers are using flash drives to house their forms and other documents on and then sending the drive as a supplement to their titles instead of a CDROM. How will you handle circulating this technology given that it is so volatile in nature?”

--Kathy Schweitzer (kschweitzer@ocpll.org), systems administrator at Orange County Public Law Library in Santa Ana.

“Does any percentage of your job involve designing and delivering training or presentations?”

--Marianne Sterna (Marianne.Sterna@sdcounty.ca.gov), legal support assistant II at the Office of County Counsel Library for the County of San Diego.

“For academics I would like to see the question, ‘Did you work in an academic law library before you got your professional degrees and, if so, in what capacity?’”

--Sid Kaskey (SKaskey@ssd.com), research and information manager at Florida and Latin American Offices of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P. in Miami.

member to member

“Benjamin Nathan Cardozo without a doubt. Not only was he modest, but he was also a great jurist and legal philosopher possessed with a noble and vivid—and I might add, an easily readable and understandable—writing style. For example, as a jurist he authored *Macpherson v. Buick Motor Co.* (217 N.Y. 382, 111 N.E. 1050, 1916), a seminal tort case holding Buick liable for the negligent construction of a defective wheel that injured a purchaser who had purchased the car from an automobile dealer. In *Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad* (248 N.Y. 339, 162 N.E. 99, 1928), a classic case known to all law students, he analyzed the theory of proximate cause, authoring the majority opinion holding an individual can only be liable for injury or harm that is foreseeable and not for every injury that follows from the negligence. And *Nixon v. Condon* (286 U.S. 73, 52 S.Ct. 484, 76 L.Ed.984, 1932), he wrote the majority opinion holding that a resolution by a state party executive committee excluding blacks from primary elections under purported authority of a state statute violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

“As a legal philosopher, he wrote a number of books defining how the legal system could most effectively function and the difficult empirical issues faced by judges in deciding cases. Examples include: *The Nature of the Judicial Process* (1921), a series of lectures on the decision-making process that he delivered at Yale Law School and Columbia University, which is still widely used as a textbook for first-year law students. He also wrote *The Growth of the Law* (1924), *The Paradox of Legal Science* (1928), and *Law and Literature* (1931).”

- **James M. Murray**, assistant/satellite librarian at the U.S. Courts Library in Spokane

“My favorite Justice is Justice Holmes. See my book, *Justice Holmes Ex Cathedra*. My play—*Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes*—had a reading on April 13 in Brookline, MA. He was a reader, a book man, a punster, and, like me, a Bostonian.”

- **Edward J. Bander**, retired and living in Brookline, Massachusetts

“(H)e defeated segregation where it really counts—in court. Devising a legal strategy based on the Constitution, he forced rights to be extended equally to even the poorest and most disadvantaged citizens.’

“(He)...won a Supreme Court ruling outlawing segregation on buses...(his argument of) *Brown v. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court, (ended legally sanctioned) segregation in public schools.’ (Excerpt from Juan Williams’ January 1990 *Washington Post Magazine* cover story.)

“As an attorney, this man repeatedly risked his life trying difficult cases all over the South. As solicitor general, he upheld the best practices of the legal profession. Finally, during his more than twenty years as a Supreme Court justice, he continually reminded America of its obligation to live up to its Constitution.

“To whom are these accolades attributed? Justice Thurgood Marshall.”

- **Maxine Young Asmah**, head of public services and director of the Texas Tech University School of Law Library in Lubbock

“Earl Warren! Eisenhower called his appointment, ‘the biggest damned-fool mistake I ever made,’ but he crafted some of the most instrumental rulings that support civil rights, most notably *Brown v. Board of Education*. I obtained even greater respect for him on a recent visit to the Supreme Court. While all the portraits of Supreme Court chief justices are pretty dour, Warren shows a kindly smile in his.

“Second place goes to Justice William O. Douglas, in part for saving the C & O Canal towpath from becoming a parkway by hiking down its 185-mile length from Cumberland, Maryland, to Washington, D.C., in eight days at age 55. D.C. hikers, bikers, and runners are eternally grateful.”

- **John Cannan**, legal reference librarian at the Law Library of Congress Public Services Division Directorate of Law Library Services in Washington, D.C.